

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4th.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Rachel Collamore; Laura Cordes; Cathy Dionne; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Kalie Hess; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty; Beth Pearce; Atlee Reilly; Judy Seals; Jeff Tiner; Susan White, and David Winslow.

Department: Fran Jensen; Shannon Martin; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert, and Molly Slotznick.

Guests: Sharlene Adams; Julie Brennan; Elizabeth Cameron; Cathy Hamilton; Diane Johanson; Becca Matusovich; Sana Osman; Amanda Richards; Malory Shaughnessy, and Shelley Zielinski.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- Sarah Grant has left MaineCare to serve as the Grants and Development Director for the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. The vacant position has been posted.
- MaineCare has put a standing order in place and issued communications to members to advise that MaineCare members can receive over-the-counter COVID tests without any cost share when the over-the-counter tests are available at pharmacies.
- There have been some instances of pharmacies facing staffing shortages due to COVID that have made accessing needed prescriptions challenging, especially on the weekends. The Department has established some workarounds to make it possible for an alternate pharmacy to process refills given the staffing challenges.

- Molly presented an Estate Recovery update. The Estate Recovery emergency rule is currently in effect, and the Department is working on permanent rule-making. Shannon Martin will be the point of inquiry regarding Estate Recovery communications.

b.) Federal Public Health Emergency

- We are approaching the end of the latest 90-day extension. The administration has indicated it intends to give states a 60-day window prior to the end of the public health emergency, so there is a strong possibility the PHE will be extended. We do not have an official update at this time.
- As a reminder, once the PHE ends, under current law states will have 12 months to ascertain members who are enrolled in Medicaid are still eligible.

c.) Rate System Updates

- Laura is wondering if the Department can issue a notice for the provider community explaining that there will be further communications specific to what the new rates might be and when they might be received.
- The Rate Committee has asked if Jennifer or Michelle can walk them through how the Department will take on rate studies, so folks can be prepared when rate studies come up.
- Michelle noted that at the beginning of each rate study there is a general orientation.
- The next meeting of the rate subcommittee will be January 23rd.

d.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Updates With Jenny Patterson

- Jenny noted that there are five public hearings scheduled for the month of January.
 - Three public hearings will be held on January 18th: PCPlus at 8:30 a.m.; Section 91 at 11:00 a.m., and Section 90 at 1:30 p.m.
 - The Section 21 public hearing will be held on January 19th at 1:00 p.m.
 - The Chapter I, Section 1 public hearing will be held on January 20th at 1:00 p.m.
- There will also be four stakeholder sessions for school-based services: January 12th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; January 13th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; January 25th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. ; and January 26th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The Department is working on the COVID emergency rule.

e.) Electronic Noticing for MaineCare Letters

- The Department has received a federal grant for activities related to reducing healthcare disparities in Maine. One of the activities MaineCare proposes to do

under the grant is enhance our electronic noticing system so MaineCare members can access the letters and notifications they receive from OMS through the same portal where they retrieve notifications from OFI. OMS currently does not have such a portal. We are considering a project where members would have the option to opt in to get all of their letters and communications from MaineCare electronically in one place. Molly asked the MAC to share their thoughts on whether it seems the project would have value to MaineCare members.

- Kathy noted it would make it easier if all communications were located in one place. Kathy noted many MaineCare members access the internet via their phones, so the portal would need to be mobile friendly.
- Michelle asked if there might be interest on the part of the MAC in seeing a demo on the upcoming new OFI portal. Esther will look in to the possibility of organizing a presentation, and she will get back to Kathy.
- Leo noted he thinks electronic communications are a good idea, but he hopes the Department will continue to make them available by choice, so folks can choose to opt in or not.

f) **New E-messaging Process For February With Shannon Martin**

- Shannon noted the MaineCare Services message topic list for e-bulletin communications is being redesigned. Currently the majority of messages go out through the general topic list. Once the new list is available later this month, providers will be able to go in and select the topics they would like to receive information on so they will only receive information that is pertinent to them.

g.) **Items From Guests.**

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The next MAC meeting will be February 1st at 10:00 a.m. The snow date is February 8th.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver